ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW

WEST LOS ANGELES

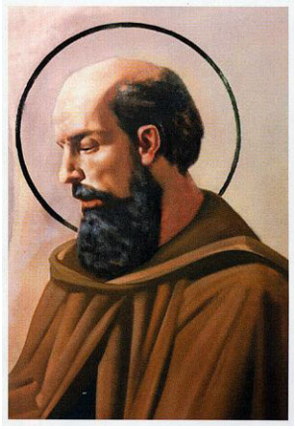
NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Fourth Week of Pascha

Monday, May 24 — Sunday, May 30, 2021

Saints Cyril and Methodius

Venerable Pachomius the Great



The Monk Theodore "The Sanctified"

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~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

When we hear the ancient church bells ring, it stirs our hearts. In that likeness, the church bells in our hearts must ring out for all to hear. The light in our souls must shine out for all to see. The world needs the warmth and blessing of God, and we need to constantly live in the Resurrection, to stand in the Light of Christ. Let us not be afraid to let our light shine out into the world. The only thing that is important is that we stay aligned with Christ in every way possible, so that we may bear witness to the Truth. And He is the fullness of Truth. Christ is Risen!

~ TWITTER SUMMARY ~

The main points from Sunday's sermon, in 280 characters or less!

Each of us understand why we suffer; we know the evil that we've participated in. Even after confessing and being cleansed, we may suffer for our sins in this life. Blessed is the man who uses this suffering for the purication of his soul.

~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~

Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week

~ MONDAY ~
(5/24)

Holy Scripture:

Acts 10:1-16
John 6:56-69
Heb 7:26-8:2 Equals-to-the Apostles
Matthew 5:14-19 Equals-to-the Apostles

Excerpt from the Menaion:

Holy Equals-to-the Apostles Methodius and Cyril, Troparion, in Tone IV —

In that ye share the ways of the apostles,/ O divinely wise Cyril and Methodius, ye teachers of the Slavic lands,/ entreat the Master of all,/ that He confirm all the Slavic nations in Orthodoxy and oneness of mind,// grant peace to the world and save our souls.

Commemoration of the Day:

Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Methodius (885) and Cyril (869), first teachers of the Slavs

~ TUESDAY~
(5/25)

Holy Scripture:

Acts 10:21-33
John 7:1-13

Excerpt from the Menaion:

Ss. Epiphanius of Cyprus & Germanus of Constantinople, Troparion, in Tone IV —

O God of our fathers,/ deal with us ever according to Thy meekness./ Deprive us not of Thy mercy,/ but through their supplications// direct our life in peace.

Commemoration of the Day:

St. Epiphanius, bishop of Cyprus (403) & St. Germanus, patriarch of Constantinople (740)

~ WEDNESDAY~
(5/26)

Holy Scripture:

Acts 14:6-18
John 7:14-30

Excerpt from the Menaion:

Mid-Pentecost, Troparion, Tone VIII —

Having come to the middle of the Feast, refresh my thirsty soul with the streams of piety; for Thou, O Saviour, didst cry to all: Let him who thirsts come to Me and drink. O Christ our God, Source of Life, glory to Thee.

Commemoration of the Day:

Mid-Pentecost

~ THURSDAY~
(5/27)

Holy Scripture:

Acts 10:34-43
John 8:12-20

Excerpt from the Menaion:

Holy Martyr Isidore of Chios, Troparion, in Tone IV —

In his suffering, O Lord,/ Thy martyr Isidore received an imperishable crown from Thee our God;/ for, possessed of Thy might,/ he set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons.// By his supplications save Thou our souls.

Commemoration of the Day:

Martyr Isidore of Chios (251)

~ FRIDAY~
(5/28)

Holy Scripture:

Acts 10:44-11:10
John 8:21-30

Excerpt from the Menaion:

St. Pachomius the Great, Troparion, in Tone VIII —

With the streams of thy tears thou didst irrigate the barren desert,/ and with sighs from the depths of thy soul thou didst render thy labors fruitful an hundredfold./ Thou wast a beacon for the whole world, radiating miracles.// O our father Pachomius, entreat Christ God that our souls be saved.

Commemoration of the Day:

Venerable Pachomius the Great, founder of cenobitic monasticism (346)

~ SATURDAY ~
(5/29)

Holy Scripture:

Acts 12:1-11
John 8:31-42

Excerpt from the Menaion:

St. Theodore the Sanctified, Troparion, in Tone I —

A desert dweller, an angel in the flesh,/ and a wonderworker wast thou shown to be,/ O our God-bearing father Theodore,/ for having acquired heavenly gifts through fasting, vigilance, and prayer,/ thou dost heal the infirm,/ and the souls of those who have recourse to thee with faith./ Glory to Him Who hath given thee strength!/ Glory to Him Who hath crowned thee!// Glory to Him Who worketh healings for all through thee!

Commemoration of the Day:

Venerable Theodore the Sanctified (368), disciple of St. Pachomius the Great

~ SUNDAY ~
(5/30)

Holy Scripture:

Acts 11:19-26, 29-30
John 4:5-42

Excerpt from the Menaion :

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, Kontakion, Tone VIII —

Having come to the well by faith, the Samaritan woman beheld Thee, the Water of Wisdom, of which she drank lavishly, and inherited the kingdom on high, where her praises are sung eternally.

Commemoration of the Day:

The Samaritan Woman

"Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world."

[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]

To read more:
https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/

~ PONDER THIS ~

A few thoughts to ponder in light of this week's lessons and sermons.

St Photini, The Samaritan Woman

http://www.orthodoxchristian.info/pages/photini.htm

Nero then ordered his daughter Domnina, with her slave girls, to go speak with the Christian women. Women, he thought, would succeed in persuading their Christian sisters to deny their God.

Domnina greeted Photini graciously, mentioning the name of Christ. On hearing the princess' greeting, the saint thanked God. She then embraced and kissed Domnina. The women talked. But the outcome of the women's talk was not what Nero wished.

Photini catechized Domnina and her hundred slave girls and baptized them all. She gave the name Anthousa to Nero's daughter. After her baptism, Anthousa immediately ordered all the gold and jewels on the golden table distributed to the poor of Rome.

~LOOK IT UP ~

Did you know: Seeing St. Theodore's strength of mind and ability, St. Pachomius once told him to instruct the brethren on Holy Scripture. St. Theodore was then only twenty years old. He obeyed and began to speak, but some of the older brethren took offense that a new monk should teach them, and they departed. St. Pachomius said to them, "You have given in to the devil and because of your conceit, your efforts will come to naught. You have not rejected Theodore, but rather the Word of God, and have deprived yourselves of the Holy Spirit."

Read more: https://orthodoxwiki.org/Theodore_the_Sanctified

~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
- Healthcare workers and anyone at risk of contracting the COVID virus
- Sister Seraphima, memory eternal, and her family

*To submit **commemorations for the next Divine Liturgy**, to make an appointment with Fr. John to give **confession by telephone**, to alert us to any pastoral needs, to submit an item for the **Prayer Corner**, or just to chat, please contact Fr. John or Mat. Deborah using the following contact information:*

Archpriest John Tomasi * (310) 749-0524 * frjohn_tomasi@yahoo.com
Matushka Deborah Tomasi * (310) 849-9451 * deborahtomasi@yahoo.com

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!